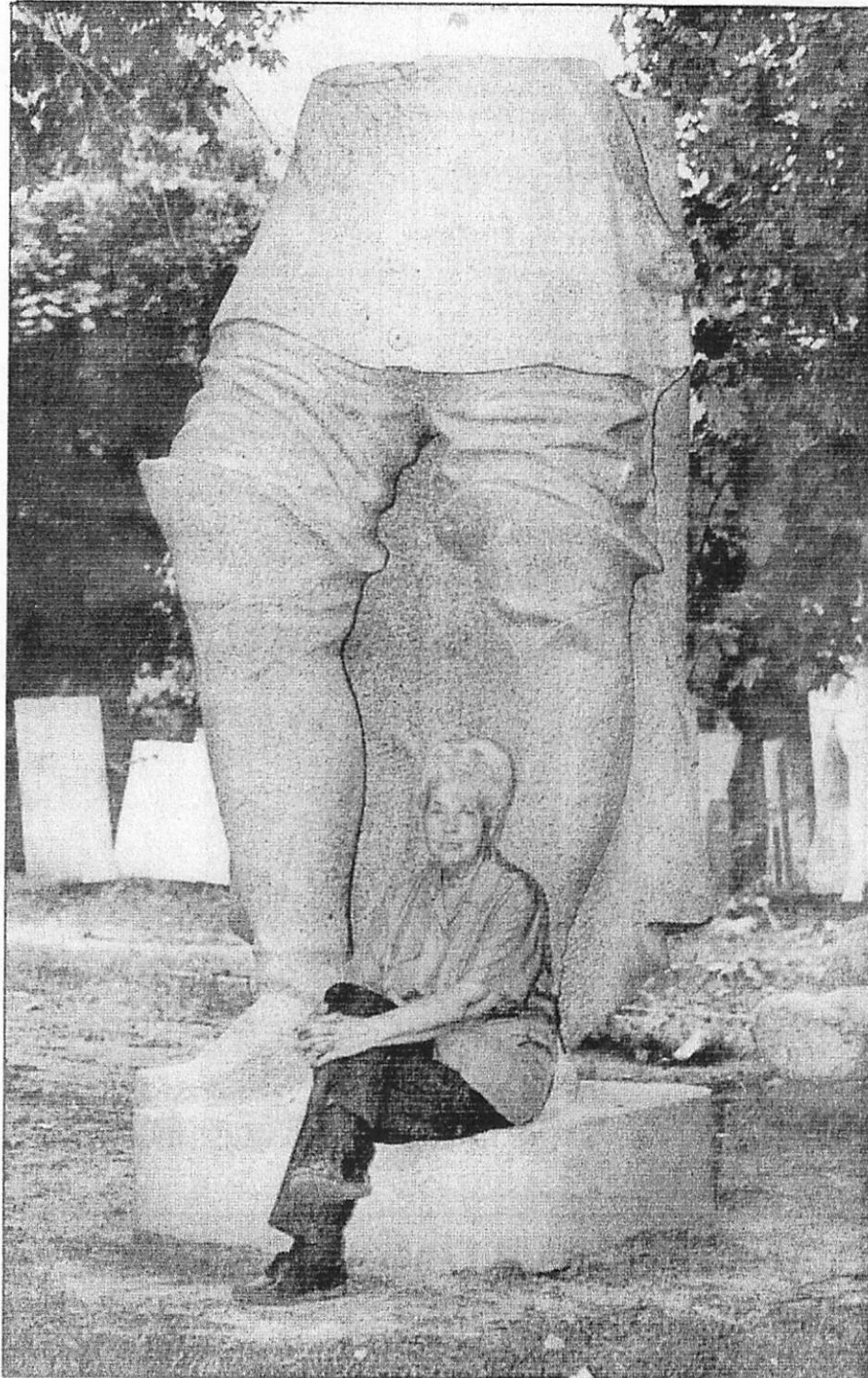


The Mystery of Captain Myles Standish's Extra Legs

A LEG TO STAND ON



Greg Dorr/The Patriot Ledger
Linda Montillio of Monti Granite in Quincy sits with the lower half of a statue of Myles Standish.

Duxbury statue may not be original

By Nina Wasserman
The Patriot Ledger



Myles Standish Monument, Duxbury, Mass.

Standish Monument Time Line

- 1872 Monument Begun Corner Stone laid
Granite shaft designed by Alden Frank, to be 116 feet high.
14-foot statue by S. J. Kelly of Boston molded in 5 ft. plaster model,
and sculpted by Stephano Brignoli and Luigi Limonetta of
Bayeno, Italy in 1872 at the Cape Ann Granite Co. using granite from
Maine.
- 1898 Outside Completed
- 1907 Interior completed
- 1908 Monument Completed
- 1920 The Standish Association (Dr. Horton with Thomas Weston's help) got
the State to accept the monument and 29 acres of the original Standish
farm.
- 1922 Lightning strikes the monument - August 26, shortly after noon, and decapitates
Myles.
- 1926 John Horrigan, Boston sculptor, cuts a replacement head. Original lightning-
damaged-legs and torso deemed too weak to support new upper statue.
Replacement ordered. Original damaged legs placed in the Horrigan
Granite Company's granite supply area.
- 1930 Repairs to the monument completed.
- 1958 Horrigan Granite went out of business and the lightning damaged lower
statue (LEGS) was moved from Horrigan Granite Co. to Monti's
Memorials. Both sites were in Quincy.
- 1979 Monument closed to the public due to unsafe spiral stairs and other needed
repairs.
- 1986 Funds appropriated to refurbish and restore, in time for the
Duxbury 350th Anniversary Celebration.
- 1988 Monument reopened after extensive repairs.
- 1998 LEGS moved by Mr. Valentine from Monti's to a site in Halifax, Mass.
together with a granite block suitable for a possible replication of the
upper half of the body. Inspection at the Halifax site reveals a large
chipped area top of the back, and circumferential cracks in the right
leg.

Rev5 March 2001
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THE MYSTERY OF CAPTAIN MYLES STANDISH'S EXTRA LEGS

Executive Summary

In August of 1998 the Quincy Patriot Ledger ran two articles concerning a Mr. Marc Valentine, who aided by a large crane and large truck picked up and moved the huge ten ton bottom portion of a granite statue from Monti's Memorials located on Center Street in Quincy to a site in nearby Halifax, Massachusetts.

The articles referred to this portion of the statue as the "legs" and posed the question as to whether this bottom portion was, in reality, somehow related to the imposing 14 foot high statue of Myles Standish currently in place on the top of a 116-foot high tower located high on a hill overlooking the bay in Duxbury, Massachusetts. Local Historians apparently had no recollection of a requirement for replacement of the original legs, although they were well aware of damage to the statue's upper sections and the tower itself due to a powerful stroke of lightning that occurred on "August 26, 1922, shortly after noon."

According to 1922 Boston Globe information, the considerable damage to statue and tower included the beheading of the Captain. It took four years before a new head was completed by sculptor John Horrigan, and during an attempt to assemble the new and old pieces it was discovered that the legs were damaged to the extent that they might not support the weight of the upper sections (Boston Globe, February 21, 1954)

Replacement of this bottom portion was not completed until 1930. The original legs had been set-aside at the Horrigan Granite Works in Quincy since they were made from a special Maine Granite that was considered to be a highly desirable raw material. It sat in the yard for thirty-three (33) years until Horrigan Granite went out of business, at which point it was obtained by Monti's Memorials for use as material to be cut up for Memorial Stones. However, it then sat for forty (40) additional years before being rescued from downsizing, by Mr. Valentine's group.

I believe that Mr. Valentine and his small group of patriots would like to find a place to display the original legs, perhaps as a part of a second restored Captain Myles Standish statue. Some innovative methods have been suggested for markedly reducing the weight of a possible new upper section. Perhaps a location at the base of the current monument would help visitors appreciate the unusually large size of the heroic granite statue above. Other possible locations might include the lobby of the new Fan Pier court-house in South Boston, or a new Museum structure located somewhere on the green strip over the Big Dig. Additional companion exhibits might include artifacts from the Plymouth Colony's early existence.

D. Ross
March 2001
dross8@mediaone.net

Monumental Disclosures

Friends told us about the heavyweight moving events in Quincy as reported in the local paper in August of 1998 and since our family has spent many vacations in an ancient beach house on the Duxbury Standish Shore they knew that we would be interested. And of course we had hiked up to view the monument many times over the years since 1947. The challenge posed by the Patriot Ledger articles^{1 & 2} seemed too great to pass by since there appeared to be several immediate approaches to getting an investigation started.

The same friends had a contact at Monti's Memorials, and arranged for a meeting. We were pleased to be able to talk with Linda Montillio, the current owner/operator. Mrs. Montillio thinks that the "legs" removed by Mr. Valentine were the original "legs" and that they were damaged by the lightning strike, although published reports say that only the head, arm and sword were knocked off, and that a new head had to be carved. She also helped us locate Mr. Valentine.

The Duxbury Library was visited next, and they did, indeed, have a "monument research-folder" listing thirty-three references. The most useful pointed to the Boston Globe as the best authoritative information source. For example the handout available at the monument described the lightening strike as being in 1924, but the Globe^{3 & 4} confirms that Saturday, shortly after noon, on August 26, 1922 was the time and date of the real event. We quickly learned that the "powerful lightning stroke" had decapitated the statue and taken off the right arm that holds the Charter for the Plymouth Colony. "The 1922 caretaker said he thought the arm and the head lay on the parapet that surrounds the pedestal." The tower itself was extensively damaged with windows blown out, tiles striped from the walls and large granite blocks displaced at the base.

On July 14, 1926 John Horrigan, Sculptor, completed rebuilding a new head. The pictures in the July 14, 1926 Boston Globe show the entire upper-body plus head, and seems to indicate that, like the lower-body-to-the-belt-line being referred to as the "legs", the upper body and head are referred to as the "head". When the legs and head were about to be assembled, the lightning induced defects in the legs were evaluated, and the need for new legs became apparent. Our casual examination of the original legs (in Halifax) showed a spiral crack in the right leg, and extensive chipping of the rear top section, probably due to the head toppling off. According to Willard de Lue⁵, writing in the February 21, 1954 Boston Globe, "practically a whole new figure had to be carved."

^{1 & 2} Text of the Patriot Ledger Articles (pages 5 - 8)

^{3 & 4} Boston Globe August 26 & 27, 1922 (pages 10, 11)

⁵ Boston Globe February 21, 1954 Myles Standish lost his headde Lue (Page 18)

We next went to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives to see if records existed that covered the funding or building of the new Legs. We found only the records of the annual funds allocated by the Legislators. Typically the amount was between \$1,500 and \$2,000 until 1930 when \$8,500 was approved for "placing on the monument a granite figure." \$1,500 in 1922 was equivalent to \$15,634, today. No records were found concerning the Horrigan efforts.

The autobiography of Thomas Weston⁶, a Duxbury Standish Shore summer resident, mentions the monument lightning-strike and the family album has a photo⁷ showing three young ladies, Elizabeth and Eleanor Weston, with Barbara Glidden viewing the monument's head. It is not possible to tell from the photo how much of the monument is on the transportation skid.

The evidence obtained mostly from BPL microfilms of the Boston Globe clearly shows the Halifax Legs to be the original legs. The only remaining question concerns the ultimate fate of the original Legs. Marc Valentine⁸ has mentioned the desirability of finding a suitable location for displaying this Historic Granite Sculpture, perhaps with a lightweight replication of the upper sections. My suggestions include:

Display a complete statue:

1. At the base of the existing Monument on Captain's Hill to help visitors appreciate the statue's unusual size. Other artifacts of the period could be displayed.
2. In the lobby of the Fan Pier Court House in Boston
3. In a new Museum located in the green area over the Big Dig
4. Along side Plymouth Rock in Plymouth.

D. Ross

March 2001

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⁶ T. Weston – Autobiography (pages 12, 13)

⁷ Photo – Eleanor and Elizabeth Weston, with Barbara Glidden (page 14)

⁸ Marc Valentine and friend (page 20)

The Patriot Ledger

Date: Tue 25-Aug-1998
Edition: a
Section: nws
Logon: wassen
Illustration: p
Location: Page 01

A LEG TO STAND ON / Duxbury statue may not be original

By Nina Wasserman
The Patriot Ledger

Halifax may have a leg up on Duxbury.

A hundred years ago, Duxbury residents erected an 18-foot granite statue of Capt. Myles Standish, the founder of the town. In 1924, lightning struck the statue's outstretched hand and toppled it over at the waist. The top half broke into thousands of pieces as it struck the ground.

But the legs remained intact.

Duxbury historians say the accounts of what happened next are murky.

They believe Standish was rebuilt from the waist up, keeping his original 19th century gams. But Marc Valentine of Halifax says that contention doesn't have a leg to stand on, and that none of Duxbury's monument is from the original.

Valentine brought what he claims to be the real 12-foot-high, 10-ton legs to Halifax today. He said they were shuffled from one Quincy granite company to another for decades and finally ended up at Monti's Memorials, where they've rested for the last 40 years.

[BEGINJUMP]

STATUE Page 15

Standish

statue

may not be

original

[ENDJUMP]STATUE 1

Jack Kelly, a spokesman for Monti's, said the legs have stood in the bushes off Centre Street in Quincy all this time. The company had intended to rebuild the upper portion of the monument and had acquired a block of Cape Ann granite from Ipswich, the same rare black-flecked granite from which the legs are made. But the company has cooled to the idea in recent years.

"It's gorgeous granite," Kelly said. "There's no way of getting it anymore."

Valentine said he has known about the legs for three years.

"What brought this to a head was we heard they were going to cut the legs up," he said.

Frances Leach, a Duxbury historian who is writing a biography of Standish, is skeptical about Valentine's claim. "I know he lost his head because it got hit by lightning," Leach said of the Standish monument. "But I had a terrible time trying to sort out what did happen after that. I got information on the stonecutter who repaired his head. But this is the first time I heard about his legs.

"I'm very leery. I've done enough research in local history to know that there are a million stories out there that aren't all true."

Duxbury Selectman Margaret Connie also had never heard of the missing legs. Connie said that if the legs were from the original statue she is not sure who owns them. "I honestly never heard of this before," she said.

Valentine plans to store the legs at his property on Dwight Street. Then he will try to put the arm on the town to either foot the bill or help raise money to carve a head and upper torso to place on the legs.

The statue cost \$39,000 to make in 1898, according to Valentine. He believes it would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars if it were

repaired.

Asked whether the town would want the monument, Selectman Margaret Fitzgerald said, "I couldn't even hazard a statement before I heard more."

Fitzgerald said Halifax would be an appropriate home for a monument to Standish, because he owned the property where the elementary school now stands.

But Halifax historian Ruth Perkins said she doesn't know where the town would put the monument. Perkins contacted members of the historical society yesterday, and all said they weren't interested in the giant limbs.

"We couldn't handle them," she said. "They're too big."

CUT: Greg Derr/The Patriot Ledger - Linda Montillio of Monti Granite in Quincy sits with the lower half of a statue of Myles Standish.

SLUG: SHXLEGS

NOTE: bwc/BA

The Patriot Ledger

Date: Wed 26-Aug-1998
Edition: a
Section: nws
Logon: wassen
Illustration: 2
Location: Page 13

MOVING ON DOWN THE ROAD / Standish statue moves to Halifax

By Nina Wasserman
The Patriot Ledger

HALIFAX -- If Myles Standish's seven league boots were not made for walkin', they are now.

A granite statue of Standish's legs was trucked from Quincy to Halifax yesterday morning.

Although Duxbury historians think someone is pulling their leg, residents in Halifax believe they have just acquired the original legs that were once a part of the Standish monument on Captain's Hill in Duxbury.

Three years ago, Halifax resident Marc Valentine found out about the legs and started to envision Halifax's own Standish monument. Yesterday, the first step to that dream was realized as a State Police escort brought the 10-ton, 12-foot legs down Route 58 to Valentine's property.

"I kept worrying someone from Quincy was going to stop us and say they were John Quincy Adams' legs," Valentine joked yesterday.

In 1889, a group of Duxbury residents commissioned a sculptor to create an 18-foot granite likeness of Standish to go on top of a 100-foot monument. The project was completed in 1898.

According to Patriot Ledger archives, lightning struck the monument in 1920 and its massive head and shoulders toppled to the ground. The lightning also cracked the legs, and the residents feared they would not support a new upper body.

The monument remained that way for seven years, until Duxbury officials decided to commission Quincy sculptor John Horrigan to make a new statue.

Horrigan created a replica made out of rough granite from the Hallowell quarries and took the legs and severed head, which were made of the rarer Cape Ann granite, to his granite yard on Federal Street. The only part of the original statue incorporated into the new statue was the outstretched right arm.

Jim Jenkins, 75, of Norwell said yesterday that he remembers playing on the legs when he was a child. "We used to climb all over them. I remember the hat sitting there right beside it," he said.

The monument took some abuse in the 30 years it was at Horrigan's yard. The head was smashed -- some say by Horrigan out of frustration over vandalism on the broken monument. The arms also vanished.

When Horrigan's company closed, Ed Monti of Monti's Memorials decided to take the legs.

[BEGINJUMP]

STATUE P. 17

Statue of Standish's legs is moved to Halifax

[ENDJUMP]STATUE 13

He and his sister, Linda Montillio, salvaged a matching block of the black-flecked granite to make a new upper body for the statue.

But interest in the project waned. And Monti also became frustrated by vandals. Jenkins recalls that kids kept painting the statue.

Just when Monti had given up hope, Valentine appeared on the scene.

Valentine now plans to drum up support from local officials to repair the monument and find a prominent place in town for it.

Meanwhile, historians are puzzled and skeptical.

"I know his head fell off," said local historian Ann Noyes. "My

grandmother used to tell me she pinched Myles Standish's nose. But I have not heard of this and I am an authority on the town's archives.''

Duxbury town historian Kathy Pilsbury said she had no knowledge of the existence of another set of legs.

CUT: Gary Higgins photos/The Patriot Ledger - John Montillio of Monti's Memorials in Quincy, fastens straps on the top of the statue of Myles Standish's legs to secure it during the move from Quincy to Halifax yesterday.

CUT: The statue of Myles Standish is hoisted onto a flatbed. The original statue was struck by lightning in 1920 and the top half crumbled as it struck the ground.

SLUG: SHXMYLES

NOTE: fw/dcb /mt/

Remember Tomorrow's Date
It's in the Advertiser
Read the Sunday Globe Week
End Edition. It's the only
one in the city.

Boston Evening Globe

BOSTON, SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 26, 1922. 14 PAGES—TWO CENTS

700 PAGES—EVENING EDITION

WARNING TO RECKLESS AUTOISTS

YOUNGER ROLLINS BOY IS ARRESTED

REMOVES THREE VERTEBRAE OF
ITALIAN WAR VETERAN'S SPINE

Unique Operation by Dr. Cunningham at Long Island
Hospital—Bullet Removed Also

Dr. Cunningham, of the Long Island Medical Center, today performed a unique operation on the spine of a young man, removing three vertebrae and a bullet. The patient, a young man named Younger Rollins, was brought to the hospital after being injured in a car accident. The operation was performed under general anesthesia and took several hours to complete. Dr. Cunningham stated that the operation was successful and that the patient was expected to make a full recovery.

TAKEN WITH KINSMAN
AT DORCHESTER
Charged With Robbery and
Assault

Donald B. McMillan, 24, of Boston, was taken into custody by police at Dorchester today. He was charged with robbery and assault on his kinsman. The incident occurred last night when McMillan was seen running from the scene of a robbery. He was apprehended by police and taken to the station for questioning.

IF DREAMS CAME TRUE

By Herbert Johnson



GOODWIN CALLS ON POLICE TO ACT

Hopes to Prevent Another
Week-End "Slaughter"

Police Commissioner Goodwin today called on the police to act to prevent another week-end "slaughter" in the city. He stated that the police had received many reports of violence and disorder during the week-end, and that he hoped to prevent such incidents from recurring.

NO INTENT TO WRECK TRAIN

Judge Whiting's Finding on
R. & A. Disaster

Judge Whiting today found that there was no intent to wreck a train in the recent disaster on the R. & A. line. He stated that the disaster was the result of a series of unfortunate circumstances, and that no one was responsible for the accident.

TORN RING OFF GIRL'S FINGER

Capture of Thief Quickly
Followed Her Scheme

A girl's ring was torn off her finger today when a thief quickly captured her. The girl was walking alone in a park when she was approached by a man who asked her for the ring. She refused, and he tried to force her to give it to him. She ran away, and he followed her. She was eventually captured by police, and the ring was recovered.

DONALD B. McMILLAN AND PARTY ON WAY HOME, ALL WELL

Frederick McMillan, who headed an expedition to the Arctic region, today returned home safely. He and his party were on their way home from a long and arduous journey. They had encountered many difficulties, but they had managed to overcome them and return home safely.

OXFORD'S TAX RATE \$52.10

The rate of tax on property in Oxford, Mass., today was \$52.10. This was a slight increase from the previous year. The town officials stated that the increase was necessary to cover the cost of various improvements to the town.

FELLED, ROBBED BY AUTO THUGS

Victim Left Decimated
After Losing \$30

A man was felled and robbed by auto thugs today. He was walking alone in a park when he was approached by two men in a car. They asked him for money, and he refused. They then forced him into the car and drove away with him. He was eventually released, but he was left with a severe injury and a loss of \$30.

POSTMASTER BAKER RETURNS TO FACE ATTACK

Postmaster Baker today returned to his job after being attacked. He was walking to work when he was approached by a man who tried to attack him. Baker was injured, but he managed to escape and return to his job. The man who attacked him was later apprehended by police.

BLACK HAND JURY STILL OUT

Testimony as to Sinibaldi Is
Read to Jurors Today

The jury in the Black Hand case today heard testimony from Sinibaldi. The testimony was read to the jury, and they will continue to hear evidence over the next few days. The case is expected to last several more days.

PRETTY GIRLS— A KNOCKOUT

McDonald Wins Up to Fight
Himself! Rabbits

A pretty girl today won a knockout fight against a man. The fight was held in a local arena, and the girl was the favorite to win. She defeated the man in a quick and decisive manner, earning her a victory.

MYLES STANDISH LOSES HIS HEAD

Statue of Capt. Myles Standish
Knocked Off by Storm

Capt. Myles Standish today lost his head. A severe storm struck the city, and the statue of the captain was knocked off its pedestal. The statue was damaged, and the head was missing. The city officials are working to repair the statue and return it to its original position.

MYLES STANDISH LOSES HIS HEAD

DUXBURY, Aug 26—A terrific thunder and lightning storm early this afternoon struck the statue of Capt. Myles Standish and knocked the head off.

ATE OPENS

BOLT BEHEADS MYLES STANDISH STATUE ON DUXBURY SHORE

HULL GALA DAY I PART I



Malaguerra, Marian, first prize winner Brockton, winners of

garden as follows: Martin, first, Copland School; second, Incehild, garden; third, Industrial School for girls; fourth, the Benjamin was awarded first prize of wild flowers. Afternoon an illustrated w England scenery was



G. S. BURBANK
PLYMOUTH, MASS.

STATUE RENT BY LIGHTNING BOLT.
Shaft of Capt Myles Standish, overlooking Duxbury Harbor, from which the head and an arm were torn during yesterday's storm.

Special Dispatch to the Globe

DUXBURY, Aug. 26.—The statue of Capt Myles Standish atop of Standish Monument in South Duxbury, was beheaded and its right arm severed by lightning early this afternoon. Damage to the monument and steps on the approach to the monument is estimated at least \$10,000.

A terrific storm struck here about noon. It thundered and lightened incessantly for more than an hour. Then came the crash heard all over the town and the statue dear to citizens of Duxbury and the Commonwealth was badly wrecked. The bolt apparently struck Capt Standish on the head and passed down the right side, taking off the head at the shoulder and the arm just below. The caretaker said tonight he thought both head and arm lay on the precinct that surrounds the pedestal. The bolt then passed into the monument and down the spiral stairway to the ground. Every school had been closed and two girls filled with aged at

a granite post, eight feet high, with a granite ball on the top, was moved half way around. Tonight the grounds are roped off and persons are warned off the steps, as they are settling in many places. The big town reservoir, which stands a few hundred feet away, was not injured.

The caretaker, W. C. Dawes, had just left the monument and Nelson Smith, who has charge of the grounds, had not arrived. Had either been in the lower room they probably would have been killed.

A Mariners' Landmark

This monument has long been a landmark for mariners, as it stands more than 300 feet above the sea. The statue of Capt Myles Standish facing eastward. Dr Myles Standish of Boston is president of the Myles Standish Association, which is made up of prominent people from all parts of the United States. Immediate action will be taken to keep the storms out. It cost to build this monument, which was a memorial to Capt Myles Standish of Pilgrim fame, and by country. It, and



Officers of Hull Gala Day Convention.
Cronin, President; Fred Quinn, Thomas P. Glynn, Treasurer; T.

HULL, Aug. 26.—Hull Gala Day, arranged each season by the prominent Summer residents, was observed today, despite the rain which, during the afternoon, fell in torrents.

The morning was given over to field sports for the children and running races for those of all ages.

On every baseball diamond in the vicinity of the municipal playground future "George Siders" were cracking out home runs for their various organizations. Junior teams from the section of Allerton, Bayside, Kennerly, and Wayland participated. Umpires' decisions were many times overruled and settled by the toss of a coin. Big league pennant contenders never played more keenly for baseball honors than these sun-tanned youngsters from Greater Boston. Gold medals bearing the town seal were the prizes for the victors while medals of silver went to the losers.

On the bay front, the water sports were held, with the Bailey brothers, Dan and George, excelling in the many races diving exhibitions and plunges. In the swimming event for girls, Miss Mar Bradshaw, victor for the past two years in the junior race, won again this year with little difficulty over her many competitors.

During the afternoon, under the personal supervision of John W. O'Malley chairman of the entertainment committee, every youngster in town was treated to free movies and souvenirs. Continuous shows by Daniel J. Murphy were conducted at the Bayside Theatre for the little folks.

The main attraction of the afternoon for the older people, the baseball game between the Baysides and Grow-Tir Company, was postponed owing to wet grounds. Band concerts under specially erected tents played on the grounds while the little people danced "between the showers" on specially constructed dancing boards.

The fireworks, which were to have been given this evening, were postponed.

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Granite Steps Moved

The top of the monument, where there is a room with windows on four sides, was wrecked, the tiling torn off and some of the cement forced out of the stones. There is no other damage perceptible until the lower floor is reached and here some of the tiling is ripped off. The lightning probably passed under the cement floor, as stone steps, weighing several tons each, were moved sideways and undermined and

a granite post, eight feet high, with a granite ball on the top, was moved half way around. Tonight the grounds are roped off and persons are warned off the steps, as they are settling in many places. The big town reservoir, which stands a few hundred feet away, was not injured.

The caretaker, W. C. Dawes, had just left the monument and Nelson Smith, who has charge of the grounds, had not arrived. Had either been in the lower room they probably would have been killed.

A Mariners' Landmark

This monument has long been a landmark for mariners, as it stands more than 320 feet above the sea. The statue of Capt Myles Standish facing eastward. Dr Myles Standish of Boston is president of the Myles Standish Association, which is made up of prominent people from all parts of the United States. Immediate action will be taken to keep the storms out. It cost to build this monument, which was a memorial to Capt Myles Standish of Pilgrim fame, over \$40,000, the money being raised by subscription from all over the country.

The monument is of rough granite, and the arch of stone was contributed by the different States. The keystone was presented by President U. S. Grant. It stands on a hill 200 feet above tide-water, part of the farm of Capt Myles Standish, being erected on the spot where his dwelling stood and in which he died in 1663. Work on it was started in October, 1872. There was a big celebration at the laying of the corner stone and again 25 years later, in June, 1897, when it was dedicated. It is 116 feet high, 28 feet at the base and 36 at the top. The statue stands 14 feet high.

Excerpt from the AUTOBIOGRAPHY of Thomas Weston - Vol. 1, pg 29,30
Chapter 7
THE STANDISH MONUMENT

For many years in the summer, we always went to Lakeville for ten days or two weeks; and in the winter the Stetsons came to Newton to visit us.

One summer we all drove from Lakeville to Duxbury, mother, father, AuntThalia and Uncle Sprague driving the pair of horses, "Princess and Noble", and Jennie, George, Grace and I driving "Billy". We spent the night at the Myles Standish Spring Hotel. The only thing I remember was going up to Captain's Hill in Duxbury. The Standish monument had just been completed except the heroic size statue of Myles Standish. It was lying about in many places in crates and cases, waiting to be placed on top. Years later, I was responsible for having the Commonwealth take over Captain's Hill and it is now a well kept State Reservation.

The Standish Monument was built and paid for by the "Standish Monument Association". When I was in the Senate in 1920, there was a bill filed by Dr. Horton, the chaplain of the Senate and the President of the Standish Monument Association, asking for a \$10,000 appropriation to repair the monument and care for the grounds. I had many talks with Dr. Horton on the matter and finally convinced him that the State would not and could not do anything. Under the so-called "anti-aid" amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, engineered by Martin Lomasney and adopted by the Constitutional Convention in 1918, it forbade the use of any state money to aid any institution or corporation not owned by the State.

I finally persuaded him to have the Association deed the land to the State, telling Dr. Horton if the State once acquired it, they would have to maintain it. I got a bill through the Legislature by which the State took over the monument and land, with a \$10,000 appropriation. Governor Calvin Coolidge sent for me and said he (see next page, please)

T. Weston Autobiography (excerpt continued)

was unwilling to sign any bill which called for an added appropriation. I persuaded Dr. Horton to let it go through on this basis, assuring him that if the State acquired title to it, they would have to maintain it. The bill went through and was signed by the Governor. Governor Coolidge sent me a personal letter with the quill with which the bill was signed attached. This I had framed and gave to the Duxbury Historical Society.

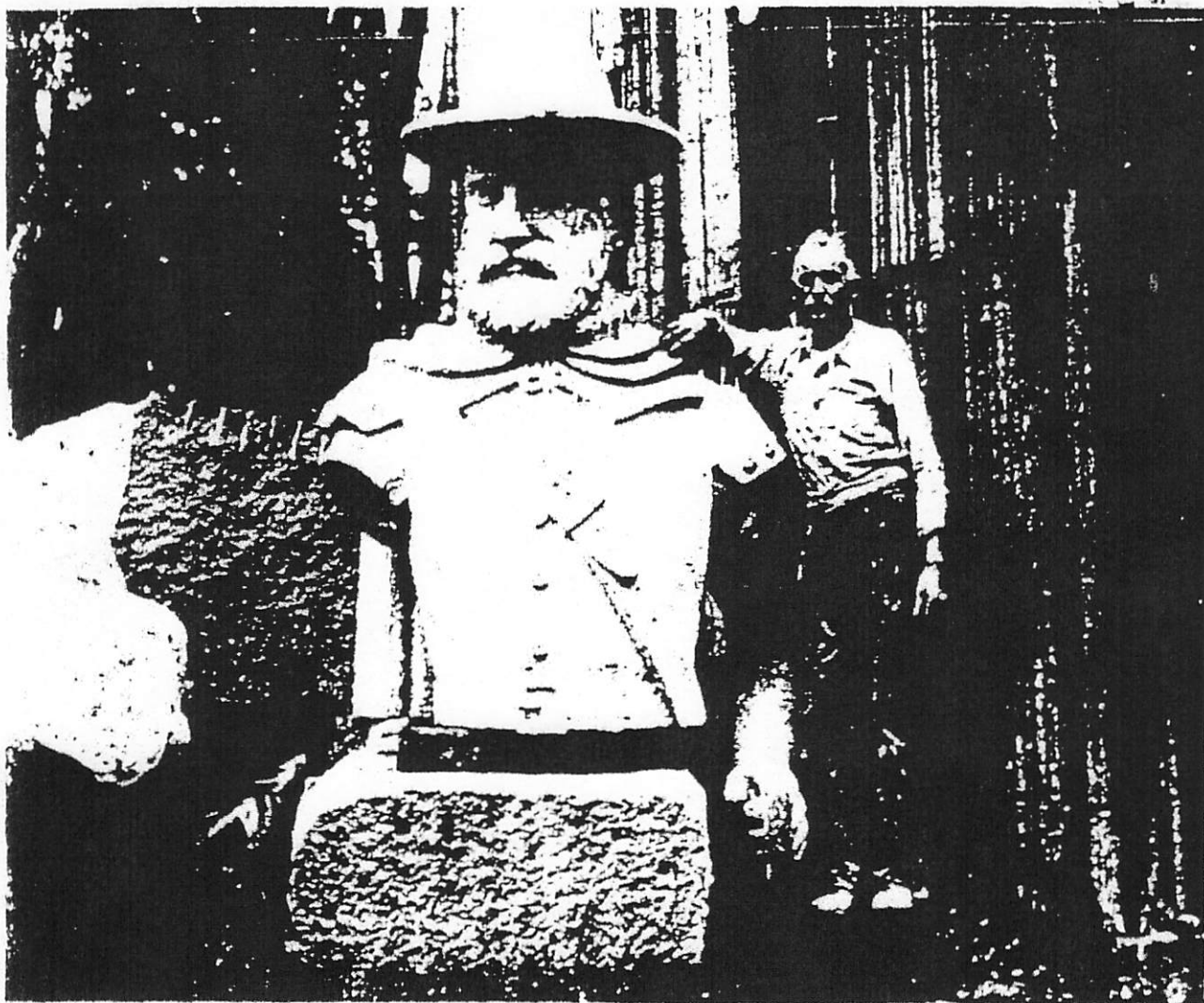
Later that year, in his supplemental budget, the Governor included an item of \$10,000 for repairs of the Myles Standish Monument and the upkeep of the grounds. It is now beautifully kept as a State Reservation and is visited by thousands of people every year.

In the old days, the view from Standish Hill was magnificent, being unobstructed on all sides. On a clear day, you could see Blue Hill and the Provincetown Monument. The pine trees have now grown so tall that except to the east and southeast, this fine view is cut off. The grounds are well kept and in the pine woods are many picnic tables.

About 1922 or 1923, in a terrific thunderstorm, the Standish monument was struck by lightning. Eleanor and Elizabeth were looking out of the window just after a terrific crash and told us Myles wasn't on top of the monument. It was quite remarkable that such a storm and the destruction of their beloved Myles did not permanently frighten them. His head, one arm and his sword fell to the ground; and there was a big spiral crack in the masonry from top to bottom.

Uncle Homer, at the time, was at the State House, as Chairman of the Commission of Administration and Finance. He advised the Governor not to attempt to fix up Myles as it would cost over \$10,000. His argument was that in building a monument today, putting a heroic size statue on top would not be considered, but the protests of Duxbury residents and really the whole of Plymouth County was so strong, Myles was fixed up and his head, arm and sword replaced.





CAPT. MYLES STANDISH statue and sculptor John Horrigan pose for the camera before the giant form was sent aloft in original place in Duxbury. Statue was hit by lightning in 1930 but suffered no ill effects.

THE SOURCE AND DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS PICTURE IS UNKNOWN.

QUINCY, July 14—When Myles Standish "lost his head" two years ago during a thunderstorm, it looked as if the entire monument at Duxbury would have to be done over, and as there wasn't money enough to buy a new monument it looked as if the ruins of the old shaft would have to remain a ruin.

After John Horrigan of this city, the sculptor of the Titanic memorial, had looked at the statue and the shattered head on the ground at Duxbury, he suggested a new one be made and fitted to the rest of the monument. His plans were carefully considered by the State authorities and looked so feasible that a State appropriation for the repair of the statue was made and the contract given to Mr Horrigan.

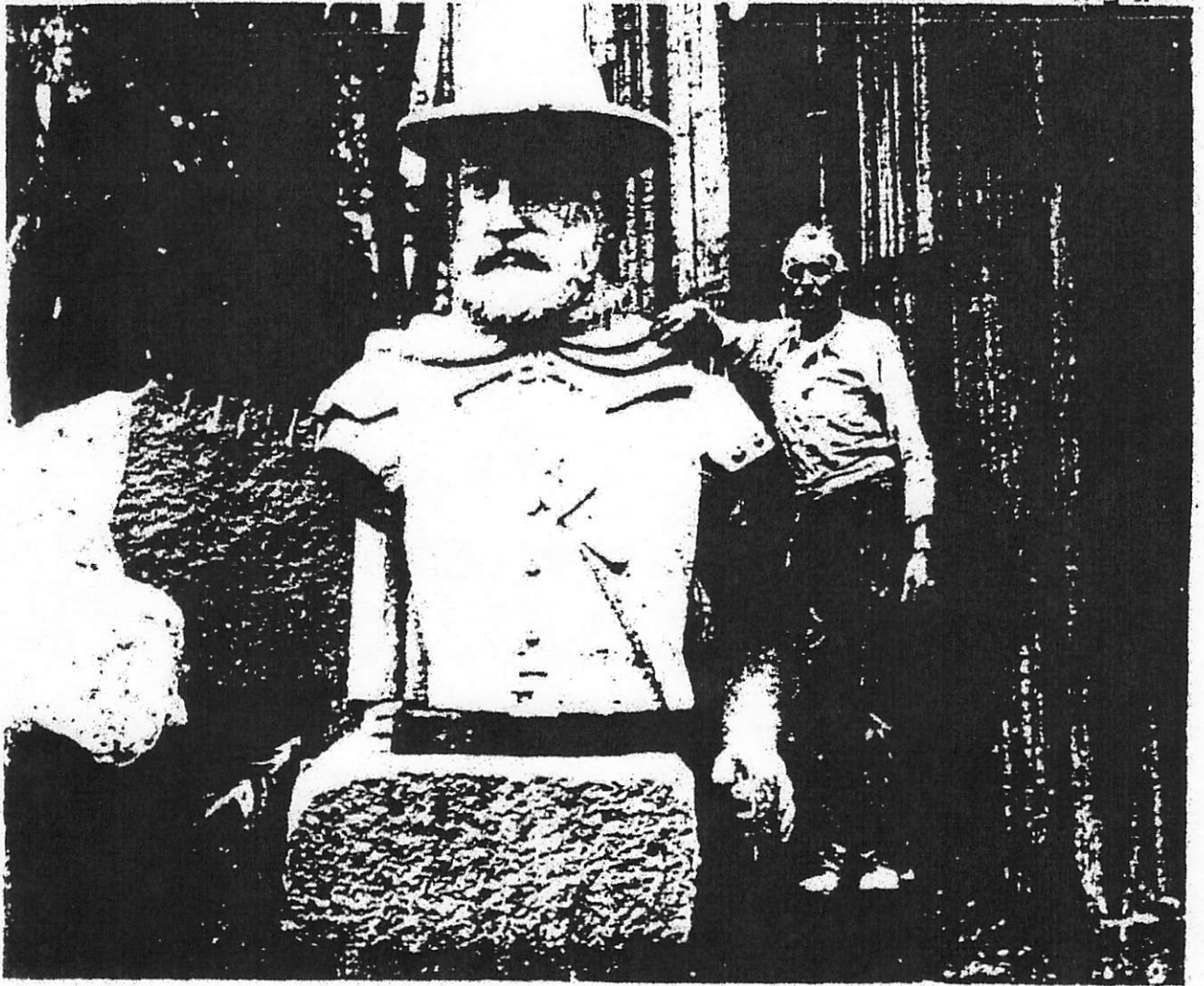
The head of the statue is now finished and some day this week will be sent to Duxbury. It will be secured to the rest of the statue, which is still standing, by iron clamps and when the two pieces are finally fitted together it is expected the parts will meet with such precision that the unknowing will not be able to discern the break. Mr Horrigan had the privilege of bringing the shattered head to his studio to get the exact meas-

urements and also to use the old head as a model.

The remarkable thing about the new head is that it was cut from a solid block of granite, the same as his statue of Robert Burns, at the corner of Franklin and School sts. was. Mr Horrigan did the job himself, with all the artistic care that marked his former pieces, and has produced a wonderful replica of the head that was detached by a bolt of lightning during a terrific thunderstorm two years ago.

The head, as finished by Mr Horrigan, is an exact likeness of the drawings of the doughty Captain General of Plymouth Colony which have been handed down in histories. Carving statues out of solid granite is no idle task. It requires consummate skill as well as a complete knowledge of the stone cutters' art.

Granite is so composed that it lies in layers or large flakes, and in rounding surfaces like cheeks or heads the utmost care has to be taken lest the tools rip off great pieces of stone and thus spoil the contour. These difficulties Mr Horrigan has avoided with great skill. Like Michelangelo of old, he has taken the solid block of stone and carved therefrom a figure that seems to breathe life.



CAPT. MYLES STANDISH statue and sculptor John Horrigan pose for the camera before the giant form was sent aloft in original place in Duxbury. Statue was hit by lightning in 1930 but suffered no ill effects.

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Afoot on the South Shore With Willard de Lue

Myles Standish Lost His Head on Captain's Hill

(This is the first of a group of stories about some random tramps in the country south of Boston.)

"It's fitting and right that the oldest command throughout the whole length and the breadth of the land to the oldest of Captains should homage pay, By accepting this trust on the Fall field-day.

That we've long loved brave Myles, and today better still, Is shown by the ranks that have marched up his hill. For far greater merit might tempt us in vain. To venture once more such a fearful campaign.

From a Duxbury battle-site of the "Ancients," 1872.

SOUTH DUXBURY—It was in December that I first climbed the Captain's Hill, and (as you may remember) found roses blossoming in the Marston's garden, where Crescent st. is on the hill's first rise.



Now I have been back again, and in a day in which I found no roses, I assure you. There have been colder days since then, but that of which I write was cold enough. Yet there was beauty in it, despite its lack of roses—its sun high, its morning bright; and when I had walked past the blasted rose garden and a little forest of white birches, then I turned up stone steps at the roadside and found myself in the winter loveliness of a piney grove.

This Captain's Hill is on the west side of an almost circular peninsula on Duxbury's south shore. Duxbury Bay is to the east of it, Kingston Bay on the west, and southward the waters of Plymouth Harbor run off to where Manomet highlands rim the far horizon. The hill itself is mostly state park today. But I believe that it was a town woods I walked in when I turned up the steps from Crescent st. a woods in which the brown needles-vest of December now was handsomely mottled by thin filterings of snow. Sledmarks were on the snow patches, and the footprints of little children, and of dogs that perhaps had played with them.

Out on the open road the wind had been needle-sharp; here in the woods there was a snug feeling. And there was, too, that special sense of warmth and well-being that comes wherever the familiar snow patterns tell of the happiness of children. It was for them that snow was made—for them, and for young dogs; and it is hard to know which takes more delight in getting all tangled up in its fluffiness.

There was no snugness, though, when I climbed to the open height. There the west wind again hurried in mercilessly, sweeping all my warm sentiment away. Sheet-ice gleamed at leaky places in a massive concrete reservoir which stands just below the hill's summit, its crenelate top giving it a solemn, fortress-like look.

Close under the reservoir is a small, summery pergola, with three benches on its terraced platform and a few little evergreens set around to shield them. I sat there in the piercing wind, and looked off across a snowy clearing to where a stone image of Capt Myles Standish stands on top of a lofty monument. The Captain's figure was in sharp profile against the bright sky; his back (sensible man) was to the

This hill once belonged to Capt Standish and all this neighborhood was his. When Plymouth Colony was about 19 years old he came up here across the bay, built himself a house at the shore and there he lived and died.

Standish's peninsula soon came to be called "The Nook," and the greater area was called Duxbury or Duxborough or Duker Berry, or such.

Some have thought that the name must have been given because the Colony's chief military leader—in Latin, dux—lived here. But it seems that it was from Duxborough Hall, the ancestral Standish estates in England—though it was "Ducksborrow" that the citizens of Plymouth Colony agreed in 1637 "shall become a township."

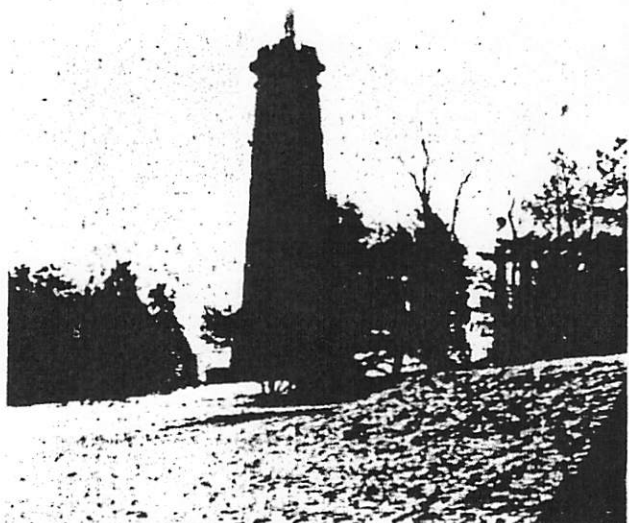
Myles Standish, captain of the Plymouth armed forces and New England's first military commander, died in 1656.

Two centuries later, his house having been long gone and his lands passed from family ownership, even his burial place was forgotten.

There had been talk in town of making a memorial to him, but it wasn't until about 1870 that something was done about it. The owner of the Captain's Hill gave some 20 of its acres as a site for a monument.

The project got underway with great eclat. None other than the valiant Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company was brought down from Boston (on its Fall outing) to see that the monument's cornerstone was properly laid by officers of the Grand Lodge of Masons.

The Ancients came 350 strong by special train to the South Duxbury station (which is more than anybody can do now!) and after a snack to sustain them, marched a long mile to the Captain's Hill, and then toiled bravely up its



CAPT MYLES STANDISH stands on the Captain's Hill, The Nook, South Duxbury.

When the exercises were done the warriors marched to Duxbury's shore, where a clambake had been promised them.

Alas, the best-laid plans of Duxbury went awry. The Globe next day reported succinctly: "Through some mistake or other, the clambake was not a success, the clams being insufficiently cooked."

Undaunted, the Ancients marched again, this time to where, with admirable foresight, they had set up their own special caterer. So now they seated themselves in a big marquee, and with ample food, and doubtless with ample drink, and with song, and a poem (part of which appears above), they toasted their own heroic exertions of the day.

How proudly our fortitude, courage and real pilgrims' applaud, reverentially feel. Could they know the privations, the suffering and toil. Each Ancient endured sitting feet on this soil.

The building of the monument was a long, slow struggle for the men of the Myles Standish Monument Association. A handful bore most of the \$40,000 burden; and I gather that it was only by grace of a \$6000 grant from the Commonwealth that a 14-foot granite figure of the Captain was placed upon that "miles high" perch, as the wags have punned about it ever since.

Even then the monument was unfinished. At one time the ground around it became so eroded that the foundation was endangered, and there was talk of tearing the monument down or else allowing it

Eventually the grounds were graded and a road was built up the slope. But it wasn't until July 1, 1890, that the monument was opened to the public; and in 1920 the association turned the memorial over to the state—or "unloaded it or the state," as one official somewhat ungraciously and publicly put it.

From then on it seemed that everything would be all right. Yet two years later, Aug. 20, 1922, the lightning struck—literally. Standish's head toppled to the parapet and one arm plunged to the ground. For some years the Captain's decapitated figure stood aloft while the Commonwealth pleaded poverty.

"What need of a statue?" it was asked. And the Art Commission added the indignity of an opinion that "the statue is not a work of art."

There was sharp protest, a new head was shaped, and a new arm. But when workmen started to put Myles Standish together again they found his legs too shaky to support his torso. Practically a whole new figure had to be carved. By 1930 the Captain was back again on Captain's Hill, and his life since then has been fairly serene.

That the statue is a work of art I wouldn't know. But as I sat there in the wind-swept pergola looking up to it, I did wonder if the seemingly slender figure (he looks off to the sea in that of a short, plump, stocky "Captain Shrimp") that the Plymouth Pilgrims knew

Post Card



HEAD FROM STATUE OF MYLES STANDISH

"The Standish Monument at Duxbury, Mass., was struck by lightning in 1922. The shaft, 116 feet high, was slightly damaged and the statue of Myles Standish which surmounted it broke. It was replaced in 1926."

Mr. Valentine and Friend



Picture from "Hammers on Stone" - B. H. Erkkila 1987



Myles Standish Monument at Duxbury, Massachusetts, was cut at Bay View wharf by the Cape Ann Granite Co. from Maine granite.

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